

\$33 Milli To Play Basketball

Where Do I Sign Up?



Playing on your high school sports team can be a great experience and will provide you with certain skills that you will use throughout



your life. Some of these skills are: confidence, leadership, and teamwork. However, for many high school athletes playing sports is more than an experience. It is also seen as a future career.

It's a safe bet that

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NHCRN

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New Hampshire Employment Security
Economic & Labor Market Information Bureau
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almost everyone who has ever bounced a ball, swung a racket, or caught a pass has also dreamed of a career as a professional athlete. It can be enticing to consider the life of Michael Jordan who signed a \$33 million contract to play basketball. But sports, the source of fun and fitness for millions, provide a paycheck for very few people.

The odds of high school athletes realizing their athletic dreams are not good.

For every Drew Bledsoe, Tara Mounsey, or Nomar Garciapara that

becomes a professional

athlete, thousands never will. Young athletes who bet their future on professional sports are in for a surprise when they look at the numbers.

Confidence is an asset in any sport, but overconfidence may lead to disappointment and defeat. A reporter once questioned high school students about their chances of playing in the NBA. Most of the teens put their chances at 50 percent. The real numbers point



to much poorer odds (see the chart below.)

Becoming a pro isn't easy, there are only a

few "jobs" and even fewer "job openings."

Major League Baseball has 30 teams with 835 players.



The NBA has 29 teams; each team has only 12 players. The NFL has 30 teams and a total of 1,350 players.

Sports careers are usually short lived—once it's over you will still need a skill to fall back on. You don't have to give up your dream of becoming a pro, but be aware of the odds and prepare yourself to have an alternate career. ♦

Source: adapted from Texas Career Success

Sport	High School	College Div. I	New Major League Pros Per Year	Odds of HS to Pros
Football	956,500	50,750	192	5,000 to 1
Basketball	505,100	13,930	48	10,000 to 1
Baseball	393,900	22,300	300	1,300 to 1
Hockey*	23,500	4,690	20*	10,000 to 1

* Hockey figure is low because many new players come from other countries.